

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-31 are pending in this patent application.

In the present Office Action dated January 19, 2007, the Examiner first rejected Claims 1, 2 and 8 and 9 as allegedly being unpatentable over Mok (U.S. Patent No. 6,892,800) (hereinafter "Mok") in view of Lopatinsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,659,169) (hereinafter "Lopatinsky"). The Examiner further rejected Claims 3 and 4 as allegedly being unpatentable over Mok in view of Lopatinsky and further in view of Wilkinson (U.S. Patent No. 5,192,183) (hereinafter "Wilkinson"). The Examiner further rejected Claim 5 as allegedly being unpatentable over Mok in view of Lopatinsky and further in view of White (U.S. Patent No. 3,273,865).

The Examiner did object to Claims 6, 7 and 12-14 but did indicate that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, and without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, applicants hereby cancel Claims 1-3 without prejudice and incorporate the subject matter thereof in amended Claim 6, now re-cast in independent form.

Thus, the present invention, as claimed in amended Claim 6 includes all of the limitations of the base Claim 1 and the intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove the objections to Claim 6 and respectfully request that this case proceed to allowance. Furthermore, Claims 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12 have been additionally amended in order to correct their dependencies in view of the cancellations of Claims 1-3.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of Claim 6 and further to withdraw the rejection of all claims dependent thereon.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that he call applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Fischman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Fischman
Registration No. 34,594

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

SF:gc